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SECURITY INFORMATION

6 May 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: [ ]

Chief, International Organizations

SUBJECT:

Ferenc Farkas

1. At the oral request of [ ] and submitting herewith information concerning Ferenc Farkas. This information is to be found in the Department of State Office of Intelligence Research Report No. 5522, dated August 13, 1951:

General Farkas' name appeared on several War Criminal Lists issued by the post-war coalition non-Communist government in Hungary, and despite his protestations to the contrary, he appears to have been a confidant of Szalasi, the Arrow Cross dictator. During the final phases of the war, he was in command not only of Hungarian but also German units. Reliable reports indicate that he was a member of a military court which ordered the execution of a number of anti-Nazi officers and civilians at the end of 1944. Some of the executions were prevented because the Russians reached Sopron, one of the last centers of Arrow-Cross resistance; Farkas and his troops escaped to the West.

Since his arrival in Germany in 1945, Farkas has been extremely active in organizing military and civilian exiles, as well as promoting himself. In 1948 he established the Anti-Soviet Hungarian Freedom Movement.

While considered a very able professional soldier, Farkas has been regarded as an almost morbidly ambitious man, an authoritarian who regards himself as the born savior of his nation. Not adverse to accepting conciliation as a temporary tactic, Farkas nevertheless is reportedly determined to undermine whatever prestige other exile military leaders possess. He is supposed to have good French contacts and has been able to send representatives into many countries in Europe and South America.

2. The foregoing reflects the type of man he is. For a full report on Farkas OSO should be consulted.

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